

Remarks

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29-31, 35, and 36 are the independent claims.

Claims 31-36 are newly-presented. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,271,805 (Yonezawa, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi, et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 15 recite, inter alia, notification means for acquiring and notifying of a state of distribution of the images by said reception means while said reception means is receiving the images.

Independent Claims 8 and 22 recite a similar feature in method form while independent Claims 29 and 30 recite a similar feature in storage medium form.

The Office takes the position that it would have been obvious to modify the teaching of Yonezawa, et al. to include "... notification and changes to the display state in accordance to the frame rate as claimed." (Office Action, page 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that neither Yonezawa, et al. nor Yamaashi, et al., either alone or in combination, teach or suggest notifying means for, inter alia, notifying of a state of distribution of images by reception means while the reception means is receiving the images, as those terms are used in the present application.

Yonezawa, et al. discloses a monitoring terminal 60 having map management software 413 which displays the panning and zooming states of the cameras with maps and camera symbols. The map management software 413 is always notified of information indicating the state, e.g., panning/tilting, and zooming of the camera from the video reception software 412. Applicants submit that there is, however, no suggestion in Yonezawa, et al. of notifying of a state of distribution of the images by the reception means while the reception means is receiving the images.

Yamaashi, et al. discloses that the display quality/specification of an image (including the number of frames per unit time) is automatically changed in accordance with a user interest degree, which is determined by an interest degree determining unit 207. Further, the frame rate can be manually changed by a user using, e.g., a frame number scaler 503 displayed by a video data display controller 205. However, when the display specifications are changed either automatically or manually, these changes merely reflect the desired settings and do not necessarily reflect the actual frame rate achieved, which may be limited by the transfer capacity of the communications path. Thus, Applicants submit that there is no suggestion in Yamaashi, et al. of notifying a user of the actual state of distribution of images, such as the frame rate.

Newly-presented independent Claim 31 recites a notification unit that causes a display unit to display an information of the frame rate state corresponding to images from a communication terminal which is different from the displayed image, and notifies of the frame rate state by changing the displayed information on the basis of the state of the reception by a reception unit.

Newly-presented independent Claims 35 and 36 recite similar features in

method and storage medium forms, respectively.

By the aforementioned feature, a determination of whether an image with little movement is being received normally can be made easier. Consequently, system abnormalities can be detected more quickly.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the citations of record, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least the aforementioned feature of newly-presented independent Claims 31, 35, and 36.

For example, Yonezawa, et al. teaches that a video transmission terminal 20 returns resultant data representing the state of a video camera 10 to a monitoring terminal 60. The monitoring terminal, in turn, displays the state of the associated video camera on a bitmap display 135. (Yonezawa, et al., Col. 3, line 65 - Col. 4, line 3). However, the state of the video camera 10 is information such as “panning/tilting and zooming” of the video camera. (Yonezawa, et al., Col. 4, lines 48-49; Col. 6, lines 4-5). Thus, the resultant data returned to the monitoring terminal comprises information such as “panning/tilting and zooming” of the video camera.

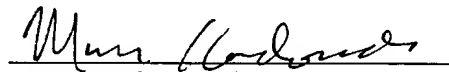
As another example, Yamaashi, et al. discloses that the quality of received images from a video data input unit is changed in accordance with a user’s degree of interest. Thus, an image of high interest may be displayed with higher image quality (e.g., higher resolution or frame rate) than an image of low interest. However, Yamaashi, et al. does not disclose or suggest at least the aforementioned feature of newly-presented independent Claims 31, 35 and 36. As a result, Yamaashi, et al. also fails to achieve the aforementioned advantage.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims from which they depend and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action and submit that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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